

JAMES TALBOTT.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 775 ]

MAY 25, 1860.

Mr. J. G. DAVIS, from the Committee on Public Lands, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the memorial of James Talbott, late register of the land office at Indianapolis, and sundry other citizens of said city, for increased compensation to the said James Talbott, and to indemnify him for moneys by him paid for room rent, clerk hire, &c., while he performed the duties of said office, report :*

That the memorial sets forth that all the land offices in the State of Indiana have been by law consolidated into one at the city of Indianapolis, thereby imposing upon a single register the duties formerly performed by six.

In consequence the business greatly increased and became extremely complicated. The correspondence, correction of mistakes, examination of books, delivery of patents, making indexes, and of reports and returns, became by the consolidation, as aforesaid, vastly multiplied ; all of which it became necessary to attend to with despatch to meet the demands of the public.

That at one time there were under examination about five hundred suspended entries and locations, which occupied much time, and required much labor of the register, for which he was not allowed to charge any fees.

The memorialist further alleges, that upon a return of the lists of the then vacant lands, it became necessary to compare them with the books of certain offices, which could not be done by a single individual. That the patents from other offices returned to the office at Indianapolis for delivery were numerous, which had to be put up, assorted, and delivered as called for. That the commissions on sales of lands were trifling, and that it became necessary to procure additional rooms for the accommodation and security of the vast accumulation of the books, papers, patents, &c., the rent for which he paid out of his own pocket, after the appropriation of five hundred dollars for that purpose, made by act of Congress of March 3, 1855, was exhausted.

Your committee, in view of these facts, are of the opinion that the said James Talbott is entitled to be reimbursed for the amount paid by him for room rent, necessary clerk hire, &c., and have agreed to report a bill for his relief, and earnestly recommend its passage.

